

MARVEL

004

FALL OF X

FOX
SCHARF
MARTIN

MARVEL STUDIOS

THE MARVELS

NOW PLAYING IN THEATERS

**DARK
X
MEN**



**PARENTAL
ADVISORY**



Remy LeBeau learned how to pick pockets and handle a switchblade before his tenth birthday.

He has lived his life taking nothing for granted, from his next breath...

...to the love and trust of *Rogue*, the woman he now calls his wife.

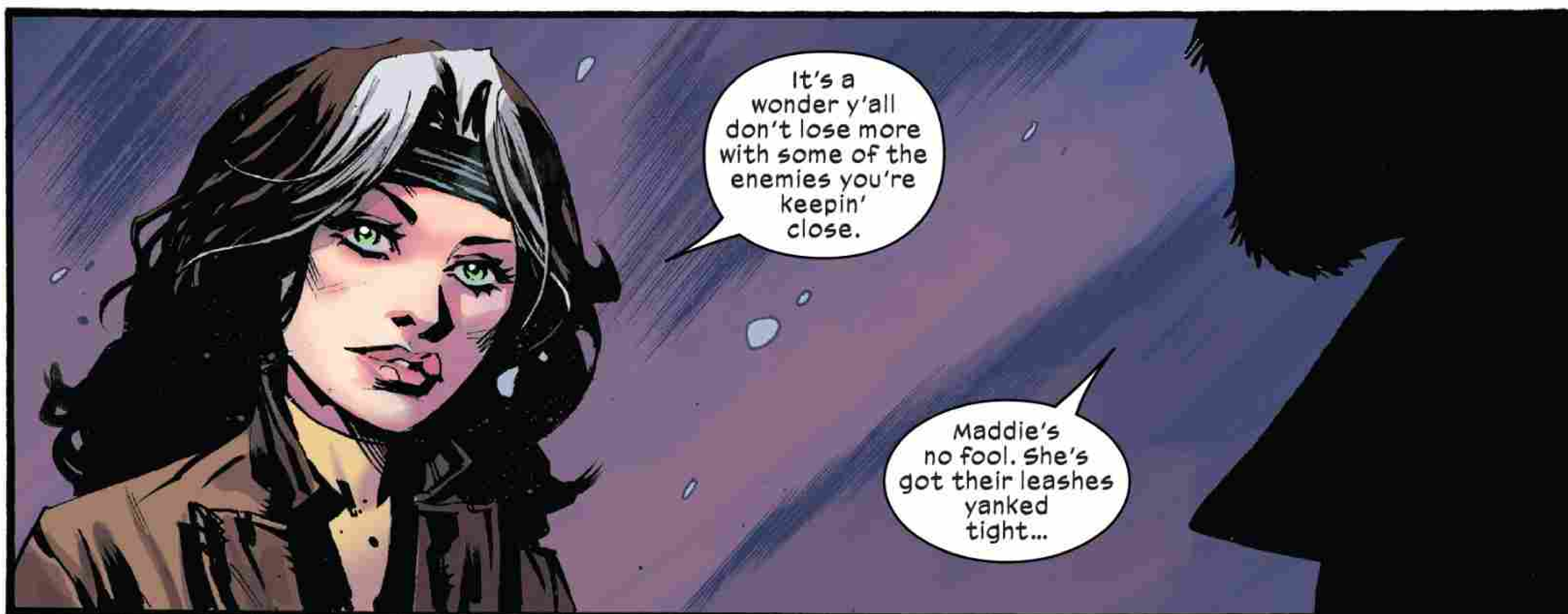
The man best known as *Gambit* is used to being the wild card--to skirting the line of suspicion, even among his closest companions.

What he is not used to, however...

...is being the *most honorable, responsible* person in the room.

Ah still don't trust Madelyne, Remy.

And Ah don't like the idea of leavin' you in Limbo much longer. You shoulda got out 'a there when Maggott did.





"...though whatever devil's bargain **Azazel** has with **Emplate**'s been wearin' thin.

I will not tolerate this indignity much longer!

Your family's **contract** says otherwise, **Marius**.



"**Zero**'s in his own little world. Still feels wrong seein' him stuck on that **tin-can Logan**.



"You'd like **Feint**, **Rogue**. She's got a big attitude for a *petite fille*.

"I think **Maddie**'s playing **Chuck** with her. Not sure that's the mentorship she deserves.



"**Havok** though...that boy's fallin' apart."



The Orchis Gulag.
Randall's Island,
NYC.

Agents Krol and Vallens
have grown impatient.
Their esoteric acquisitions
are entertaining when they
provide value--

--not when they *stall*. And Krol
and Vallens both suspect that this
trip to Orchis' primary mutant-
holding facility is the latter.

They are
wrong.

The *Goblin
Queen* knows
what she wants.

You've promised
to turn Benjamin Reilly
against Pryor. He's already
interred *inside* the
Limbo Embassy.

What
use will this
mutant provide
that *Chasm*
can't?

We're going
to stride through
the front door of the
little queen's
castle, Krol.

And this
doomed wretch
is our *skeleton*
key.

[FALL OF] DARK X-MEN

STORM THE CASTLE

Madelyne Pryor has assembled her own team to rescue and protect mutant refugees in the face of Orchis' anti-mutant crusade. However, Madelyne's violent methods aren't appreciated by all -- resulting in the recipients of her most recent rescue mission turning the Dark X-Men away, further fraying the tenuous bonds holding the team together.

Elsewhere, Orchis agents Krol and Vallens are pressuring the Goblin Queen (a demonic version of Madelyne Pryor from another universe) and her Bamf Dragon to help them bring Madelyne and her rescue efforts down.

With the pressure rising in the wake of a failed assault on the Dark X-Men team, the Goblin Queen has decided to hit them where it would hurt the most -- the Limbo Embassy -- in order to free the prisoner Chasm and bring the whole kingdom crumbling to its knees.

- 1 [MADELYNE PRYOR]
- 2 [HAVOK]
- 3 [FEINT]
- 4 [EMPLATE]
- 5 [AZAZEL]
- 6 [GAMBIT]
- 7 [ZERO/ALBERT]
- 8 [GOBLIN QUEEN]



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DARK X-MEN

04 “UP JUMPED, THE DEVIL”

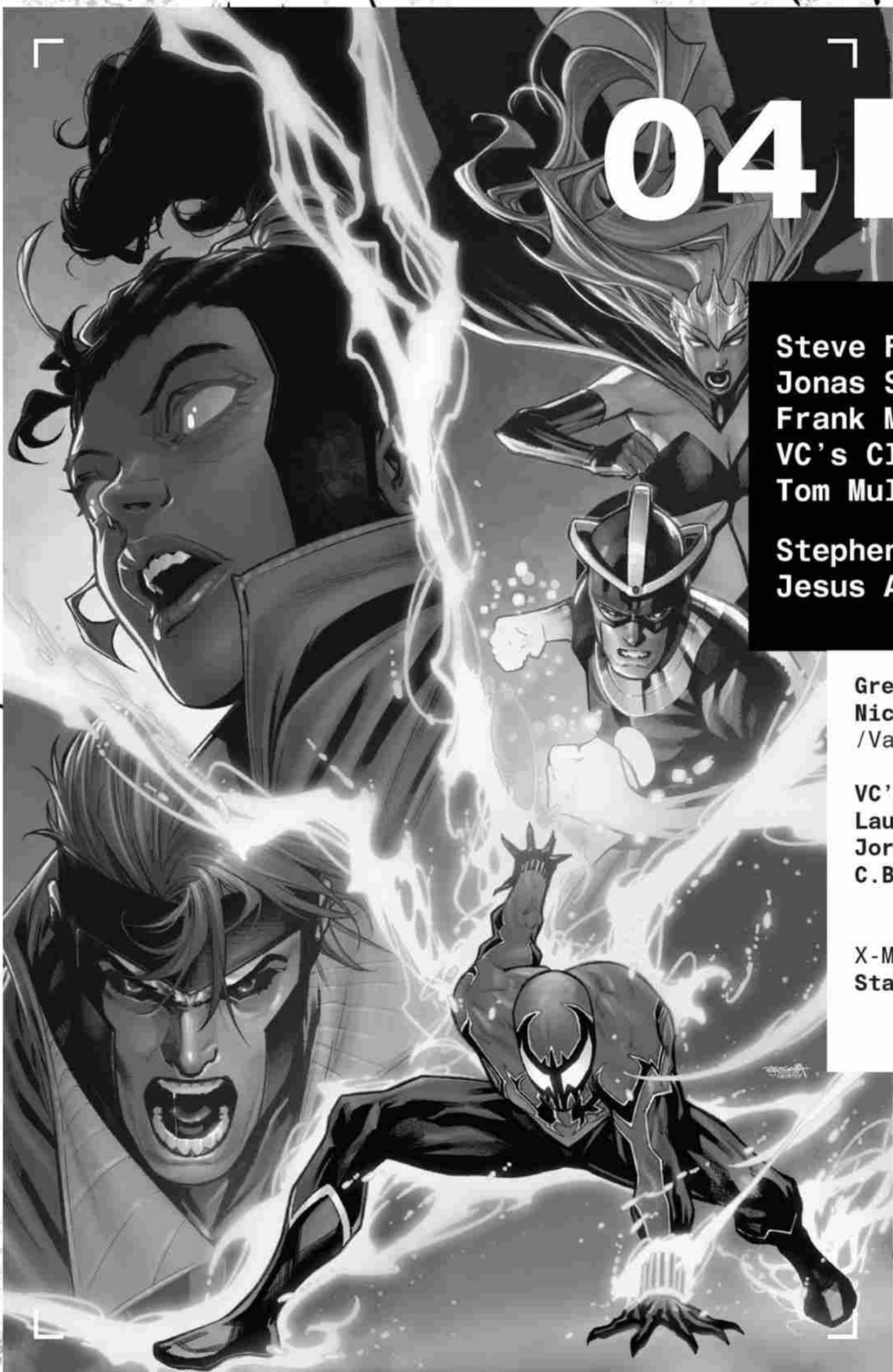
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The Limbo Embassy.

Welcome
back,
LeBeau.

The Embassy's protection ends
at its gates--don't forget that
tomcats who wander tend to
get struck by cars.

I got
nine lives,
Maddie.

Where
you headed
so fast?

To greet
a mutant
running toward
us now, screaming
for aid both
psychically...

"...and out
loud."

HELP!
Help me!

Get back
here, gene
freak!



Nils Styger took the mutant name *Abyss*.

Welcome to the Limbo Embassy.



It's a fitting moniker. His body is a gateway to a cold, lifeless dimension...

Gah!

No harm will come to you here.



...over which he has only limited control.

Your mind is in a frenzy. What did they do to you, you poor creature?

...over which he has only limited control.



Speak up, child.

I said... she made me...

click



...a
weapon.



Oh god...
why me...

Screeech



Your Abyss-
bomb actually
worked.

It's
dangerous to
doubt me,
Krol.

Watch
your
tone.



And
what of
the mutants
still left
inside?

I'm going
to hang their
intestines from the
candelabras,
of course.



It appears
I find myself at a
crossroads...



A conversation between old friends on the topics of faith and forgiveness, upon the occasion of the dawn of a new era.

C. XAVIER: Your father, Kurt -- have you spoken with him?

K. WAGNER: Nein. There is much to explore of our new home, and I do not care to remember that Azazel tastes these fruits of Krakoa while so many of our fellow mutants linger in purgatory.

C. XAVIER: "Purgatory." That term belongs to your old faith, Kurt. And the resurrection queue is hardly synonymous with monotheistic conceptions of --

K. WAGNER: The bounds of my belief have grown, Charles. My faith itself has not wavered. If it had, I could not accept some of those with whom we share this paradise.

C. XAVIER: I admit I was...concerned that Raven would not tolerate Azazel's presence here.

K. WAGNER: Would you deny meine mutter her resentment?

C. XAVIER: No, but I would hold her to our agreements. She is here by the same grace of amnesty as is Azazel.

K. WAGNER: "Grace." Is that term not also of old faiths?

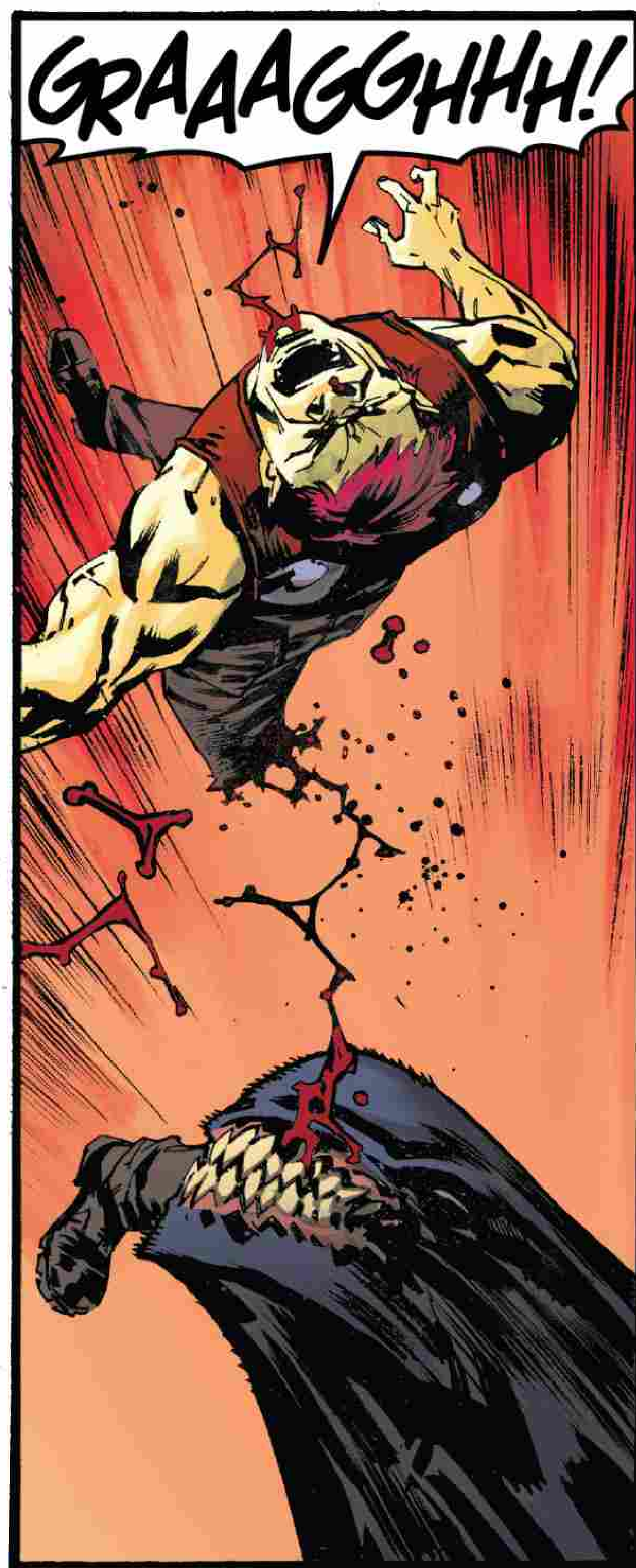
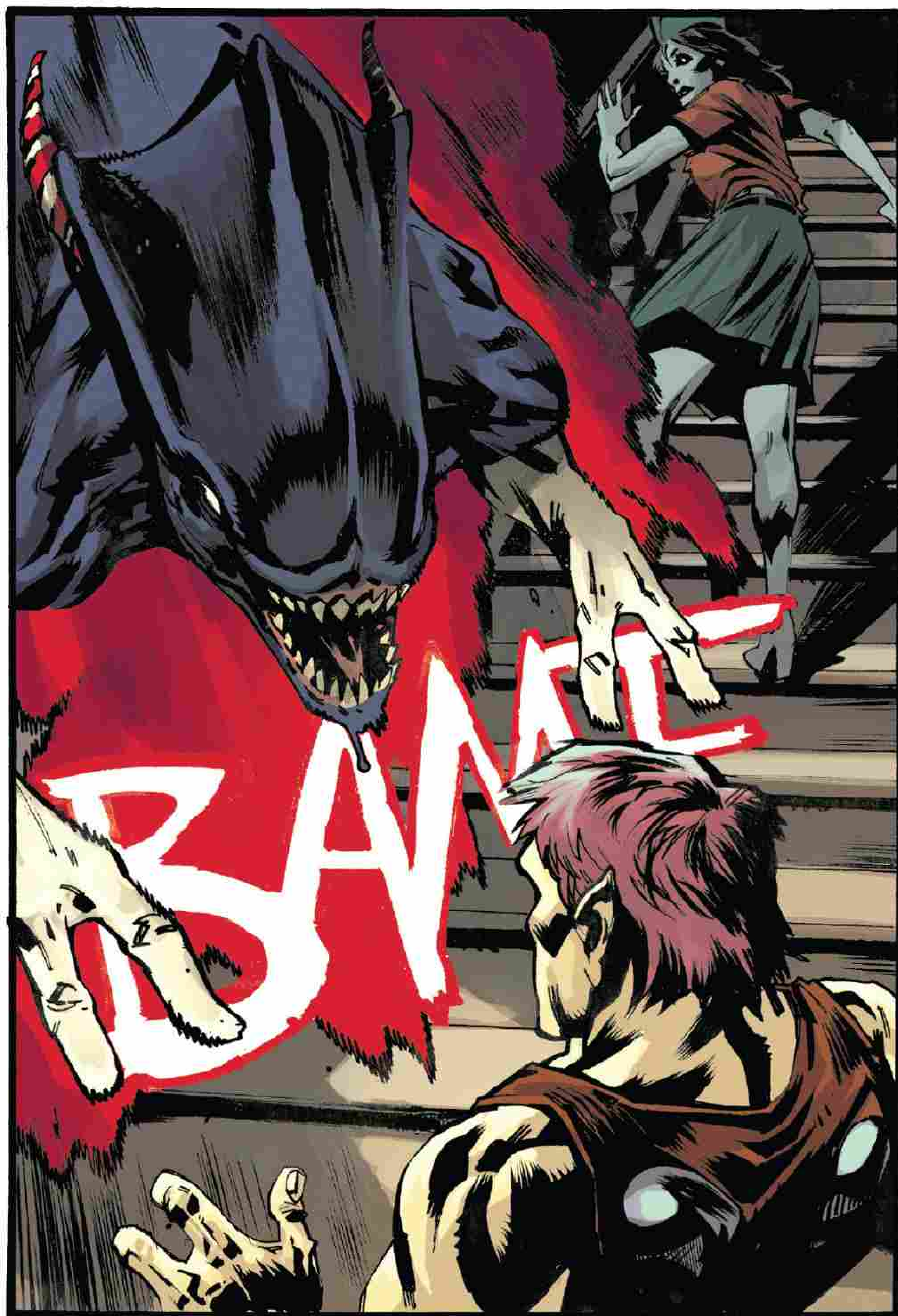
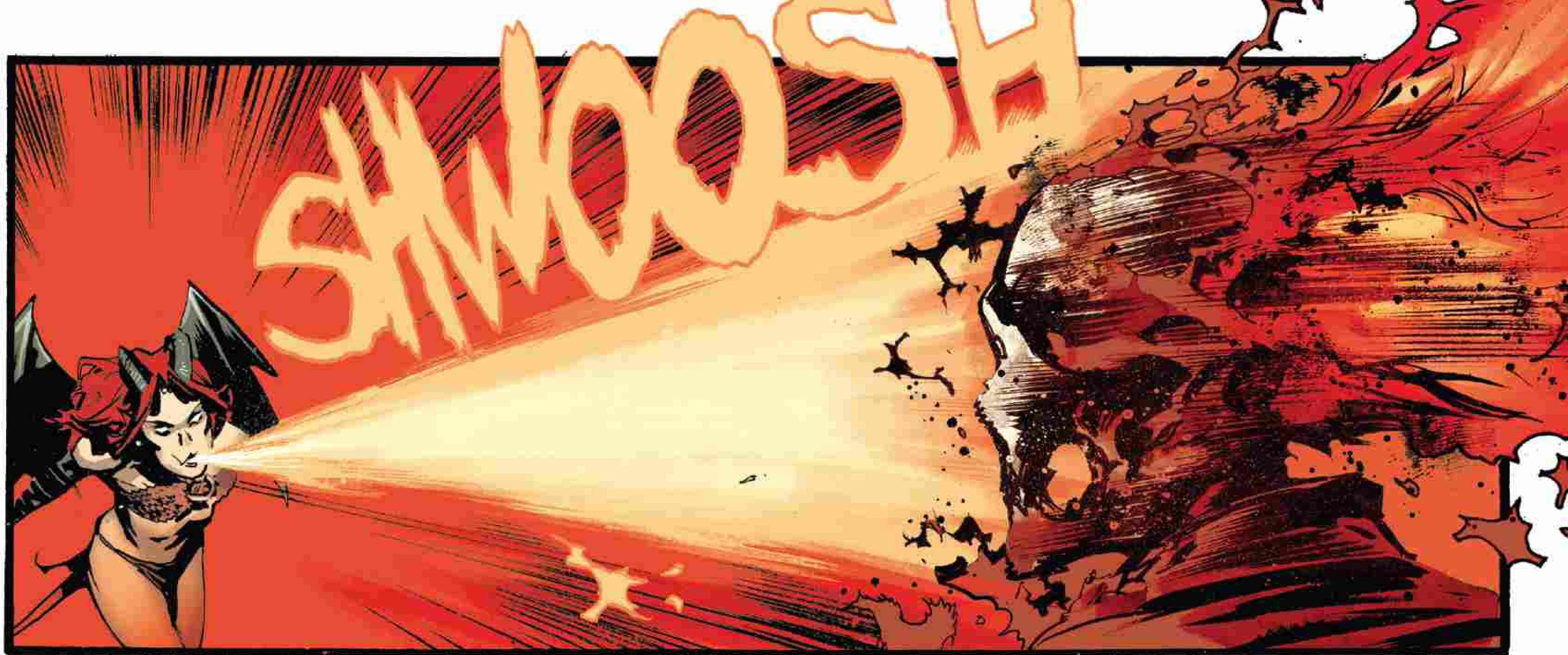
C. XAVIER: Touché, Kurt.

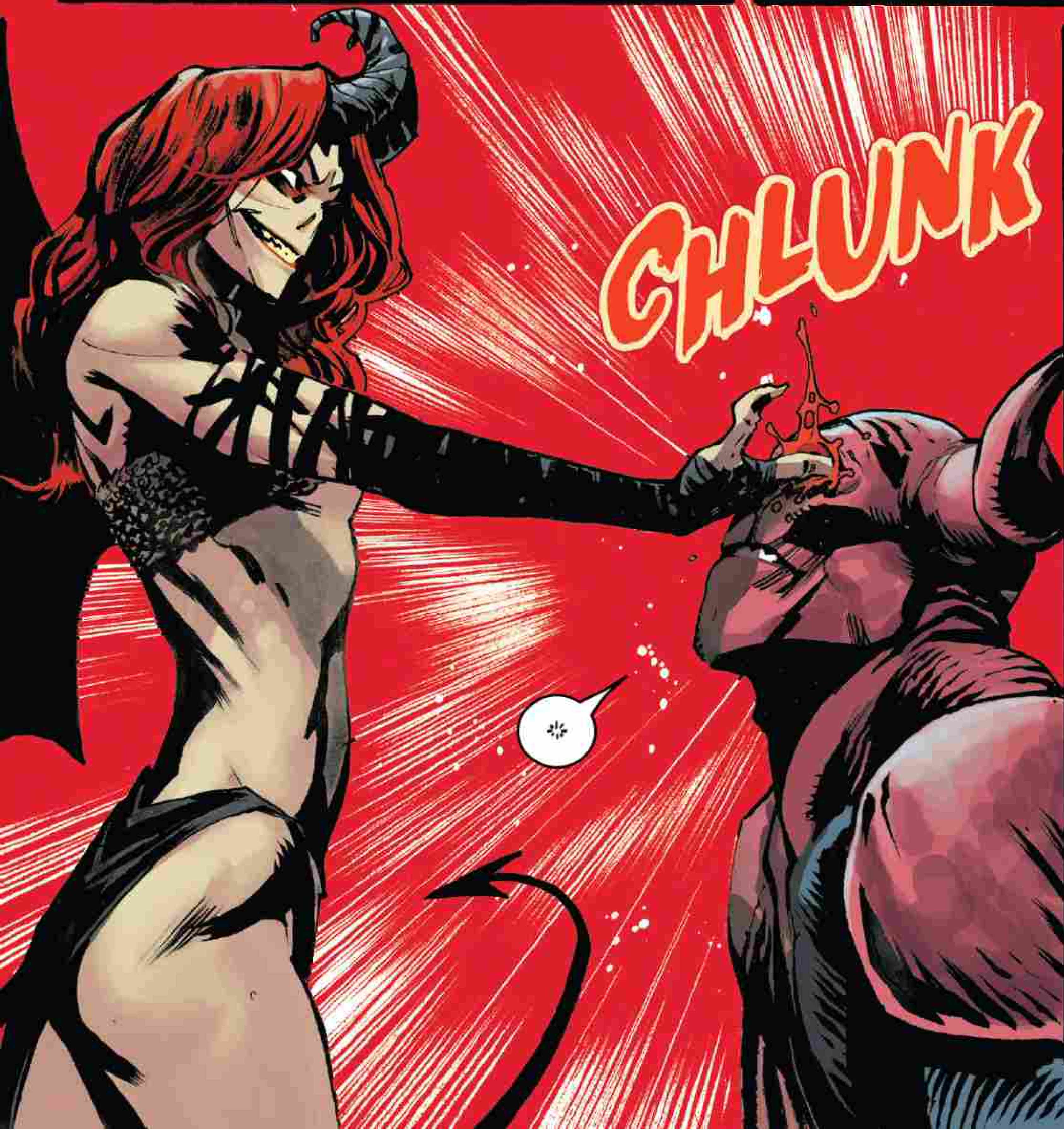
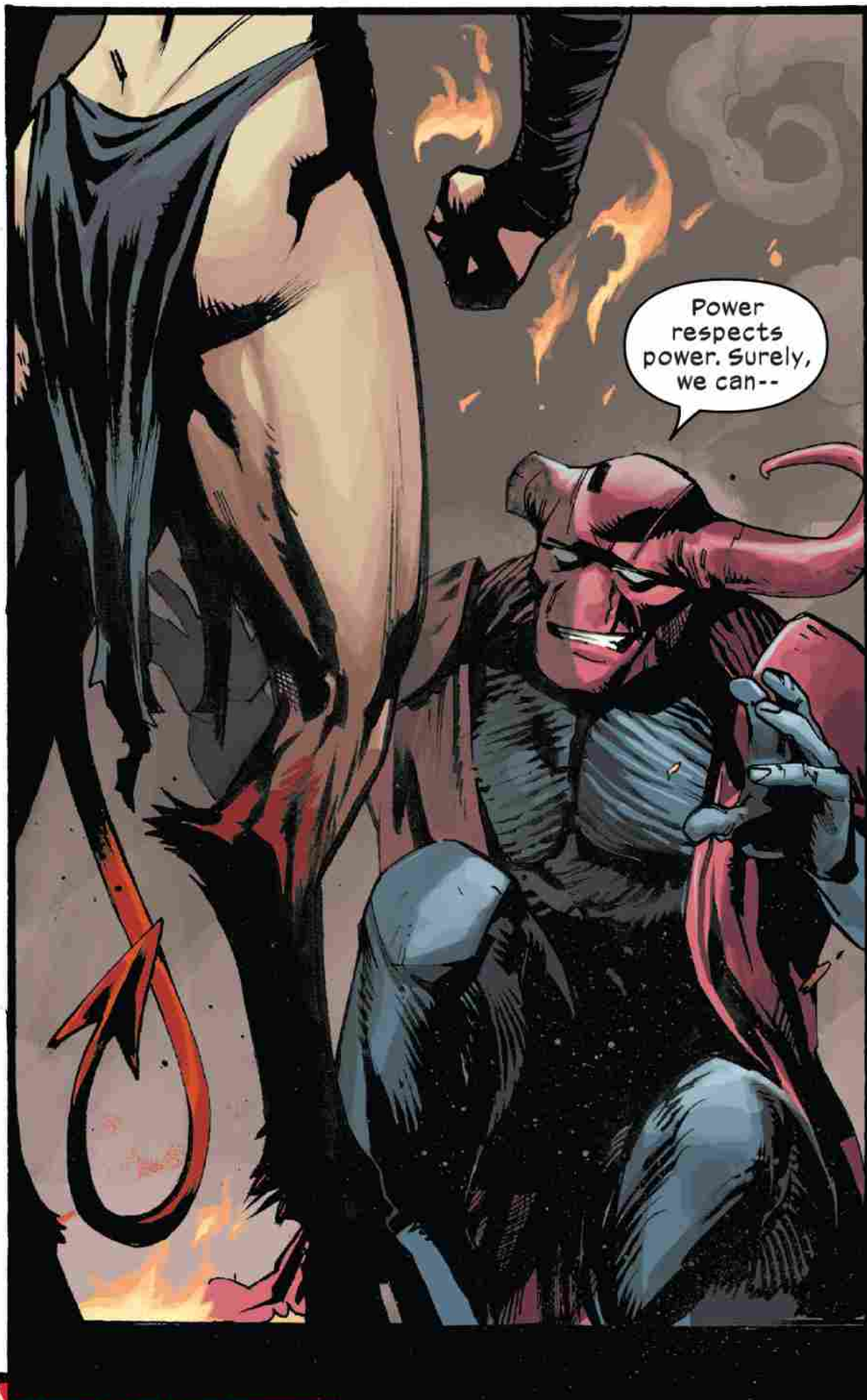
K. WAGNER: In truth...I do not expect that Azazel will find Krakoa to his liking. Paradise is not what he seeks.

C. XAVIER: And if he vacates our land and trespasses against Krakoa's laws -- will you be the one to hold him accountable?

K. WAGNER: I will protect Krakoa and our mutant siblings. But I hold no vendetta against Azazel, if that's what you're trying to determine. He is no father to me in any way that matters...just a sad old devil whose day will come, with or without my intervention.











I haven't been locked away so long that I don't recognize what that *flower* on your arms stands for.



I'm far from a hero...

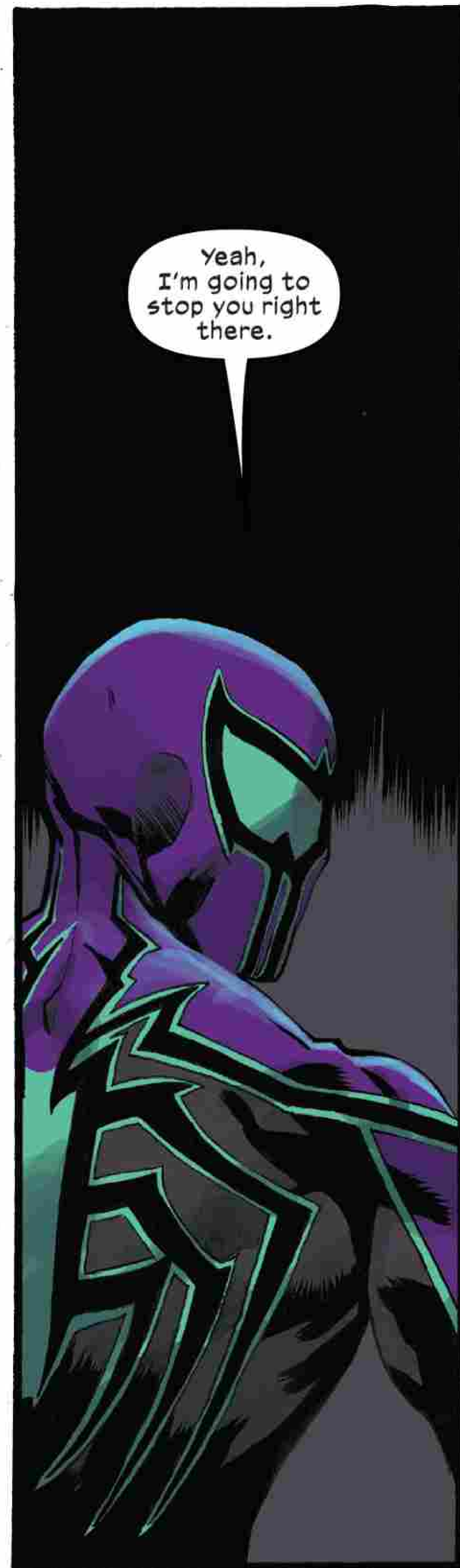
RATATAT

Argh!



THWAM

...but I'm no monster.



Bugwort sees and hears many things that Bugwort is not supposed to see and hear. The Mistress does not no that Bugwort writes these things down, no no no! The Mistress does not no Bugwort CAN wield the scribbly-stick that fell off The Mistress's desk. But Bugwort waches, oh, how Bugwort waches!

Bugwort is no bigger than the worm-tail tooth-crawlees that scurry around NUYAWK. The human things of NUYAWK do not notis Bugwort -- Bugwort is very sneaky! -- and when they see Bugwort, Bugwort SCREAMS and STOMPS and THRASHES and the human things run run run, all the way home!

But one human thing can't go home, no no no! The Mistress forbids it! The Mistress and this human thing fought and fought and fought, and oh, how The Mistress THWOMPED the human thing.

Now the human thing lives in the nastiest, foulest, most GROSSEST corner of the Limbo M-B-C. The gards do not notis when Bugwort crawls n-side the human thing's prison. The gards do not want to smell the FRESH WATER or sniff the GREEN GRASS or feel the GENTUL BREEZE. It is almost as NASTY NASTY as SINTRAL PAWK. So Bugwort sees and hears MUCH MUCH MUCH other demons do not.

The Mistress calls the human thing BEN or may-b BEEN because he has BEEN so many things. Bugwort hears that BEN was a SPIDERS MAN but BEN has not enuf legs and not enuf eyes. Bugwort hears BEN was a HE-RO but BEN is not a HE-RO anymore, even if he sits on a log and feels bad and sad about being a HE-RO day after day after day, oh ho ho!

BEN is a CAZ-UM now which The Mistress's pet AL-X says is rittin out like CHASM. AL-X helps Bugwort write sometimes but The Mistress can not no or she will punish AL-X. Bugwort will lern the human things's scribbly-words, yes yes yes!

But the CHASM wont lern no-thing because the CHASM is locked up tite tite tite until The Mistress says he can go free. Which will never never never never NEVER never never NEVER never never happen, no ho ho!





Ugh!

I have a great deal of anger to unleash, Azazel, so I will assume you *knew* that killing the boy would release us from his pocket dimension.

Yes, let's go with that.



There is, after all, a much worthier recipient for your wrath inside the Embassy. She looked quite a bit like you, in fact.

Only with a tantalizing forked tongue and fetching pair of hooves.



Orchis has allied themselves with demons?

And I thought they couldn't stoop lower than Selene and Shaw--

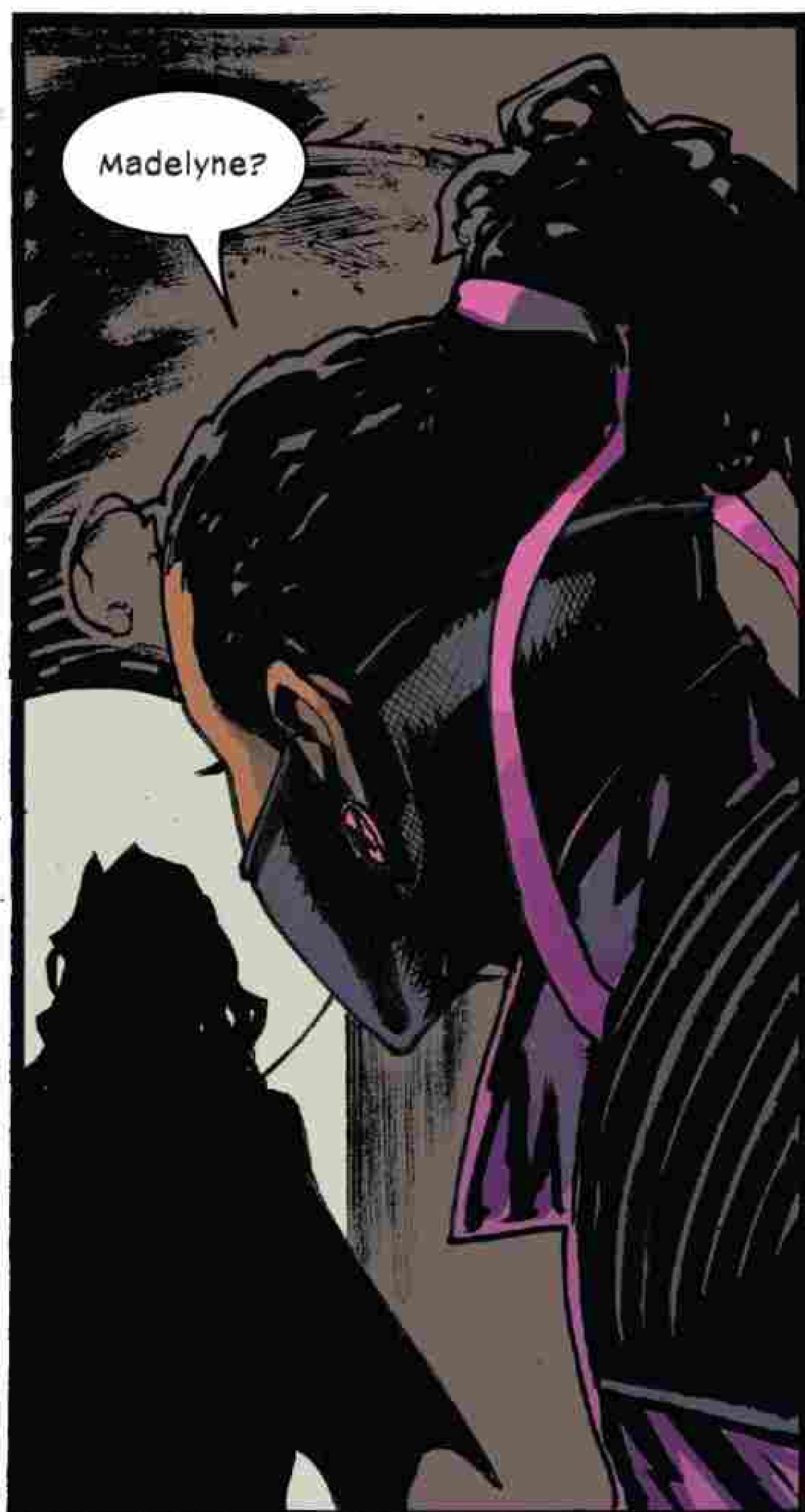
Wait, Maddie. If Orchis already got inside...



"...then
Carmen's in
there wit'
dem."

MOVE!

Hey!
Watch
it.



Madelyne?



Yes...
and no.

Hhhh--

Your Pryor
has a means of
touching mutant
souls.

Where
does she
hide it?



As if I'd...
tell you...

Very
well.



You, girl. Your skin crawls
with gnawing mouths on
endless legs.

And
now...



I am the rightful
Queen of Limbo!

I have
defeated countless
challengers to
my throne.

And now
I will--

You will
submit or die,
"Sister."

I've carved
a new throne
from gristle
and bone...

...and
you've been
evicted.





KAMIC RIDER
MARIKA